

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, CGEN, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK INTEREST IN PORT ENTRY QUESTION

1. SINCE MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK ON DECEMBER 8, CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE BEGUN TO PRESS EMBASSY FOR REDUCTION IN THE CURRENT FOURTEEN DAY ADVANCE PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR THEIR VESSELS TO ENTER US PORTS. PERHAPS CZECHS SOMEHOW GOT WORD THAT USG IS CONSIDERING MOVING FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE; THEY MAY EVEN BE SURPRISED THAT WE HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THEM SATISFACTION--PARTICULARLY DURING MY SESSION WITH CHNOUPEK.
 2. IN ANY CASE, MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY CALLED IN DCM DECEMBER 20 MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF EMPHASIZING GOC DESIRE FOR PROGRESS IN REDUCING PORT NOTIFICATION TIME. ZANTOVSKY POINTED TO US PROCEDURE IN REQUIRING ONLY FOUR DAY PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR SOVIET VESSELS ENTERING MOST US HARBORS AND ASKED WHETHER CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD BE GIVEN SAME TREATMENTS AS SOVIETS.
 3. SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER DECEMBER 21 CEREMONY AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN WHICH I GAVE CZECHOSLOVAK MARITIME REPS AN AWARD FOR PARTICIPATION IN AMVER (AUTOMATED MUTUAL-ASSISTANCE VESSEL RESCUE SYSTEM), SIXTH DEPARTMENT OFFICER KAMIS DREW DCM ASIDE TO REITERATE ZANTOVSKY'S REQUEST FOR PROGRESS ON THE PORT NOTIFICATION
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ISSUE. KAMIS CLAIMED IT WAS SOMETIMES A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR CZECHOSLOVAK VESSELS TO WAIT DURING THE STORMS AT SEA FOR LENGTHY VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY INTO U.S.

4. FINALLY, IN MY DECEMBER 22 MEETING WITH ZANTOVSKY ON

EMIGRATION OF CHILDREN WISHING TO REUNITE WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN
U.S. (SEPTTEL), ZANTOVSKY AGAIN RAISED THE PORT NOTIFICATION PROBLEM.

5. AS A CONTINGENCY, EMBASSY HAS PREPARED A FORMAL NOTE AS
AUTHORIZED BY STATE 199008 INDICATING DECISION OF USG TO REDUCE
ADVANCE PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF PORT ENTRY REQUESTS FROM FOURTEEN
TO SEVEN DAYS AND CREW LIST VISA ISSUANCE TIME FROM 21 TO SEVEN
DAYS. I PLAN TO HAND OVER THIS NOTE WHEN THE TIME SEEMS

BEST IN LIGHT OF OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATION SHIP. AS POINT
OF INFORMATION, HOWEVER, WE NOTE IN DEPARTMENT'S A-2660 THAT USSR
IS INDEED PERMITTED FOUR DAY NOTIFICATION FOR ENTRY INTO WHAT
APPEAR TO BE THE 40 MOST IMPORTANT U.S. PORTS, WHILE POLAND,
ROMANIA, AND HUNGARY HAVE FOUR WORKING DAY ADVANCEIWEQAHST REQUIREMEN
T
FOR ALL U.S. PORTS. WE WONDER WHETHER THERE IS A PARTICULAR
REASON FOR ESTABLISHING UNIQUE SEVEN DAY PERIOD FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA--
RATHER THAN PUTTING IT INTO SAME CATEGORY WITH THE OTHER THREE
EE COUNTRIES. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THIS POINT ABOUT WHICH
I AM CERTAIN I WILL BE QUERIED BY CZECHOSLOVAKS AFTER
NOTE IS PRESENTED.
BYREN

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